environmental safety assessment includes studies on pollen escape out-crossing, aggressiveness and weediness, effect of the gene on non-target organisms, presence of protein in soil and its effect on soil micro-flora, confirmation of the absence of terminator gene and baseline susceptibility studies. The food and feed safety studies include assessment on composition analysis, allergenicity and toxicological studies and feeding studies on fish, chicken, cows and buffaloes. In case, the transgenic crop is not found suitable for release in the environment or human consumption, the product is rejected during the trial stage itself. A final view on the commercialization of GM plants is taken only when there is a clear economic and technical justification for release of the product.

Impact of foreign plants and trees

†1102. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact and results of the plans that were formulated to promote the plantation of eucalyptus and other similar species;

(b) whether there has been any impact of the plants and trees of foreign species on the soil, water or environment of the country; and

(c) whether any assessment has been made to ascertain the consequential benefits and disadvantages and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) National Forest Policy, 1988 envisage a massive need base and time bound programme of afforestation and tree planting, with particular emphasis on fuel-wood and fodder development, on all denuded lands in the country, whether forest or non forest land. Government of India promote plantations of trees under different plantations schemes. As per report of National Forest Commission (1986), Forest plantations area in India is 32.57 million ha. and major species are teak, rosewood, eucalyptus and acacias which accounts for 17% of global plantations.

(b) and (c) No such specific studies have been carried out by Indian Council of Forest Research and Education and its institutes. However, as per literature available eucalyptus plantations do not lower down the water table.

River pollution

1103. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the rivers which have been declared dead due to industrial and man made activities resulting in extreme pollution as in the case of Yamuna in Delhi;

(b) what are the reasons that Government has not so far learnt any lesson to revive Yamuna and other such rivers, from the rivers abroad like Hudson in New York,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Thames in London, Seine in Paris, Tiber in Rome, Nile in Cairo and Cheonggyecheon stream in Seoul; and

(c) whether any such plans are likely to start in near future for these rivers including Yamuna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) This Ministry is implementing various pollution abatement schemes under National River Conservation Plan for improving water quality of rivers including river Yamuna. Programmes for tackling point and non-point sources of pollution include Interception and Diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation works, crematoria works etc. The pollution from industries is addressed through the existing legal provisions. The Plan presently covers 38 rivers in 167 towns spread over 20 States.

Three major drains along river Yamuna namely, Najafgarh drain, Supplementary drain and Shahdara drain, are proposed to be covered under the project on 'Interceptor Sewer Concept' by the Government of NCT of Delhi. Lessons learnt from the best practices followed in different countries including river Thames in London, have been taken into consideration for promoting a holistic and integrated river basin approach. Recently, Government has set up 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' as an empowered authority to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of river Ganga.

Per capita carbon dioxide emissions

†1104. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the share of India's per capita carbon dioxide emission in climate change;

(b) India's rank in the per capita carbon dioxide emission among G-77 countries of the world;

(c) whether any time frame has been set for developing countries in United Nations' Agreement regarding carbon emissions; and

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed by the countries emitting higher amount of carbon dioxide to reduce the emission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) India's per capita CO_2 emissions in 2005 are 1.2 tonnes per year and India's share in global emissions is 3-4%.

(b) According to UN Millennium Development Goal Report (2007-08), India ranks 80th among the G-77 countries of the world in terms of per capita CO_2 emissions.

(c) and (d) As per Kyoto Protocol, only developed countries are supposed to take deeper emission reduction targets in the second commitment period beginning 2013.

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